HUMAN TO DIGITAL

Sites where human activity is translated to the digital.

Who "owns" this data?
What types of questions does this data answer?
What scales can this data be analyzed in?
What histories do these data emerge from?
How often do you interface with these sites?

Please tally your reactions:

like	love	haha	wow	sad	angry
👍	❤️	😂	😮	😢	😡

Microwave

Many microwaves use a humidity sensor to guide the auto-cook function. Statistics for cooking time, humidity, frequency of use of auto-cook functions, and possibly even weight of food items can be potentially gathered.
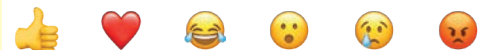
Elkay drinking fountain

My background research revealed that this model lacks networking capabilities and stores bottle refill count only temporarily. However, what kind of insights might we gather from collecting data about peoples' drinking habits? I imagine that this data might be useful for designing the capacity of various water bottles or food servings...

Lenel RFID Reader

The industry name for this is Real Time Location Systems (RTLS). This RFID reader captures ID info from card-embedded RFID tags, which are used to authenticate access to services at the university.

Read about ways that RFID authentication systems can be exploited by security researchers and malicious parties to gain access to secured spaces (Mashable):

https://bit.ly/2TmCNbN

Vending Machine Computers

Vending machines are a classic example of computer tampering. Various sources claim guides using secret codes that, at most, give access to internal diagnostic information and sales information.

More on Slate
https://bit.ly/2UqtE1Q

Crosswalk Buttons

"Wait." Crosswalk buttons demonstrate an interesting feedback system in which different modes of traffic data are used to time crosswalk signals— which then affect traffic patterns and thus traffic data, resulting in a feedback loop that powers New York City's largely automated road signaling infrastructure.

Read about how traffic signals are timed to allow longer pedestrian crossing times https://nyti.ms/2jVIJvm

"Every move you make
Every vow you break
Every smile you fake
Every claim you stake
I'll be watching you"

Please tally your reactions:
like love haha wow sad angry
👍 ❤️ 😂 😮 😢 😠

Networked Traffic Signals

Most traffic signals are controlled remotely through the Department of Transportation's Traffic Management Center, which allows engineers to adjust timing based on sensor data gathered throughout the city.

More from Urban Omnibus:
https://bit.ly/2MJ2ile

CitiBike

👍 ❤️ 😂 😮 😢 😠

CitiBike gathers and publishes demographic data on its customers, gathering information such as Trip Duration, Gender, Birth Year, and trip information.

More from Ash Center at Harvard:
https://bit.ly/2Bk0cnt

Utility Meters

👍 ❤️ 😂 😮 😢 😠

Traditional analog utility meters display the utilities consumed using a simple analog display. New smart meters gather this information but are able to remotely communicate to utility companies in order to provide real-time analytics. Utilities companies position smart meters as the future of their business.

Plan by Dominion Energy rejected by State of Virginia:
https://bit.ly/2FAbZl1

NYC Department of Environmental Protection Data Collection Units

👍 ❤️ 😂 😮 😢 😠

From 2009, the NYC Department of Environmental Protection began remote monitoring of water meters by implementing a system called the STAR Network. Digital water meters record water consumption and relay this information to these DCU's, which then wirelessly relay this information to utility companies.

Learn more about these mysterious boxes from ACLARA; the manufacturer of these boxes:
https://bit.ly/2Bbcj65
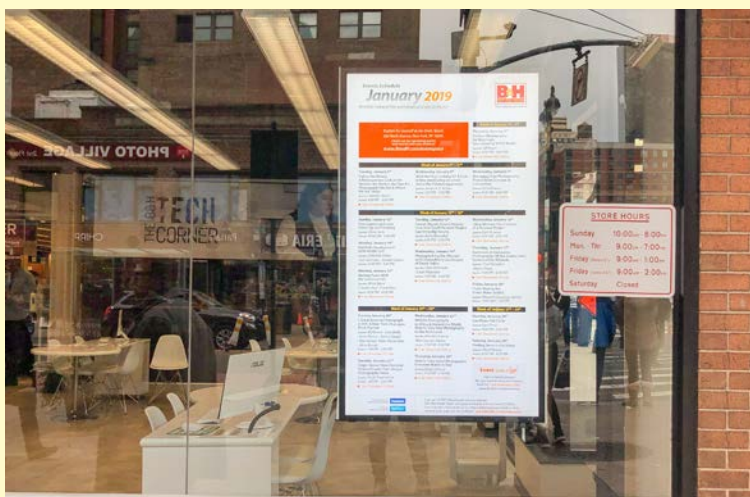
Retail Digital Signage

👍 ❤️ 😂 😮 😢 😠

How many brick and mortar businesses that you frequent utilize digital signage solutions to display menus, service offered, prices, and advertisements? The following image displays sales information from B&H Photo and Video, a large electronics store whose flagship store is located near Hudson Yards.

*"I bet you didn't know
someone could love you this much"*
— *Dangerous (2015) by Big Data*

*In the same that Chapman regards Physical Touch in the grammar of his
"Love Languages," could our data inputs become acts of pleasure and even
a kind of intimacy for the sentient-like computers of tomorrow?
#intimatecomputing*

Intercoms with doorbell cameras and building directories

Many intercom systems sport remote video and even public directory access for tenants. Why do they all bear a creepy resemblance to HAL 9000, the killer AI from 2001: A Space Odyssey?

Some outlets report concern over the exploitation of these ubiquitous cameras: https://bit.ly/2RW4GuO

Please tally your reactions:
like love haha wow sad angry

IP Cameras

Early manufacturers of IP-based networked cameras during the 2000s were notorious for creating insecure web access portals that allowed remote access and control of IP cameras scattered around the world, ranging from storefronts and zoos to private driveways and baby cribs.

More from Ars Technica: https://bit.ly/2Hz8kps
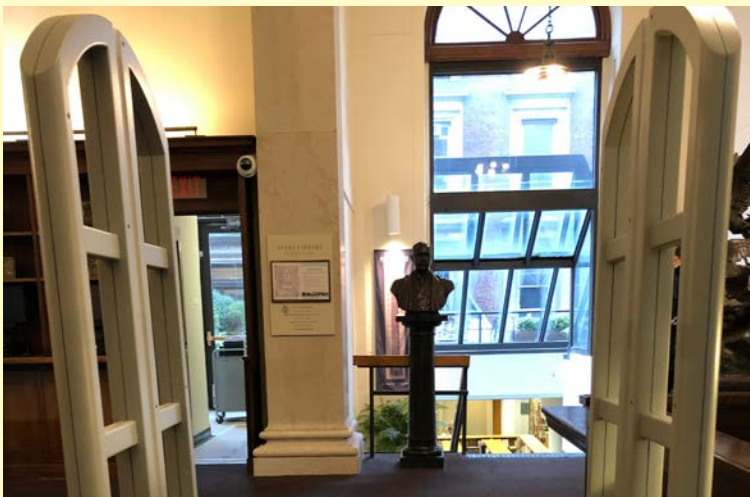
"Tattle Tape" Anti-theft system

In the Tattle Tape system, a magnetic strip is embedded in the spine of a book. It triggers an alarm upon passing through sensor columns, unless the book has been de-magnetized using a large magnet. Tattle-tape was an early form of theft prevention, but some modern libraries today use RFID tags, which supply metadata to speed up circulation processes.

More at RFID Journal
https://bit.ly/2GaOcYr

Columbia University Public Safety Security Cameras

Columbia University uses a sophisticated 24-hour camera system with a fidelity that allows for possible facial ID of subjects. There exists a vast market of software and hardware vendors that design and support complex systems that manage the rapid capture and distribution of images captured through extensive remote camera networks such as the one at Columbia. One related industry term is the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD);

Wikipedia article for CAD
https://bit.ly/2E8lzfa

Digital parking meters

Digital parking meters can provide planners with information about the utilization of curbside space by automobiles, segmented by time of day, seasonal usage, and duration of parking use.

DIGITAL TO HUMAN

Sites where digital data is made visible or accessible to people.

Please tally your reactions:
like   love   haha   wow   sad   angry

👍 ❤️ 😂 😮 😢 😡

High-tech Halal

Today's food trucks are chock-full of high-tech operations: rapidly-pulsing LED-matrix displays, inkjet and laser printed graphics, and handheld payment card systems. Many food trucks rely on a combination of intensely spiced cooking scents, flashing LED's, loud motor pumping, and brightly colored decals to make their presence known. Recall that LED's were invented in a GE R&D lab in the sixties; these technologies have made their way to surely an unexpected space: the food truck.

Read about their history on Eater: https://bit.ly/2FXn53M

👍 ❤️ 😂 😮 😢 😡

GSAPP Digital Screens by Linked By Air

New York City-based design firm Linked By Air designed Columbia GSAPP's visual identity and website, imagined as a database for the happenings of the schools. These screens display information from the custom-built Economy CMS, providing a physical conduit to otherwise ephemeral digital content.

Read more about the project on Linked By Air's Web site: https://bit.ly/2DIEzP2

👍 ❤️ 😂 😮 😢 😡

Real-life pop-up ads (large-scale video billboards)

In our Web browsers, we can utilize ad-blocking tools to keep our eyes free from advertisements. How might ad-blocking play out in the "meatspace?"

Artist Jordan Seiler created the "No Ad" augmented reality app in 2014, which replaced subway advertisements with artwork from the International Center of Photography. DigitalTrends: https://bit.ly/2RV1f7w

👍 ❤️ 😂 😮 😢 😡

MTA Help Point

Enables audio access to travel information as well as emergency response services via telephone.

More on MTA: https://bit.ly/2sVSI5s

👍 ❤️ 😂 😮 😢 😡

Lottery info displays

Little public information is available on the networking technology behind lottery screens, but lottery retailers in New York are entitled to free displays and other "point-of-sale materials."

Information for retailers: https://on.ny.gov/2Upf9vp

Please tally your reactions:
like   love   haha   wow   sad   angry

👍 ❤️ 😂 😮 😢 😡

New information displays at renovated 36 Ave station

These new displays additionally offer USB charging ports in addition to extending the MTA's advertising potential. So far, most of the images on the displays consist of MTA PSA's presenting directions regarding the use of various MTA services.

👍 ❤️ 😂 😮 😢 😡

Fire alarm annunciator panel
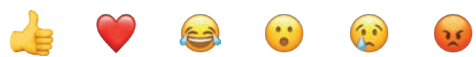
These endpoints serve as status displays on building fire alarm systems, effectively aggregating the entire state of a building's complex network of fire alarm sensors into a single panel that helps managers troubleshoot the system.

👍 ❤️ 😂 😮 😢 😡

World clocks

The clock is a powerful symbol of modernity and urbanity. Alongside the train, which compressed space-time and enabled the conditions for the industrial city of the 19th century, the clock is one of the pivotal technologies that disciplined the worker and reconfigured the relationship between the body's biological circadian rhythms and the rational-scientific tick of the clock. The clock mediates time itself; its circular arms "represent" the present moment into a form of ubiquitous data.

Time, Work-Discipline, and Industrial Capitalism,
E. P. Thompson (1967) https://bit.ly/2CXdUg2

👍 ❤️ 😂 😮 😢 😡

LUXUS Digital Coffee Pot Meter
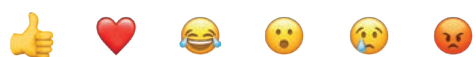
This commercial-grade coffee pot sports a freshness timer and a fill indicator that abstracts the aroma and joy of coffee into two simple indicators displayed on an LCD. Note that "Freshness Time" and "Volume Indicator" are actually trademarked by the company FETCO.

Device manual: https://bit.ly/2BbfiLQ

👍 ❤️ 😂 😮 😢 😡

Model AE-100 Commercial Telephone Entry System

Although this device boasts a directory, a dig into the user manual for the device reveals that the device is actually not networked through Internet Protocol (IP)—it is programmed through a telephone-based network connection.
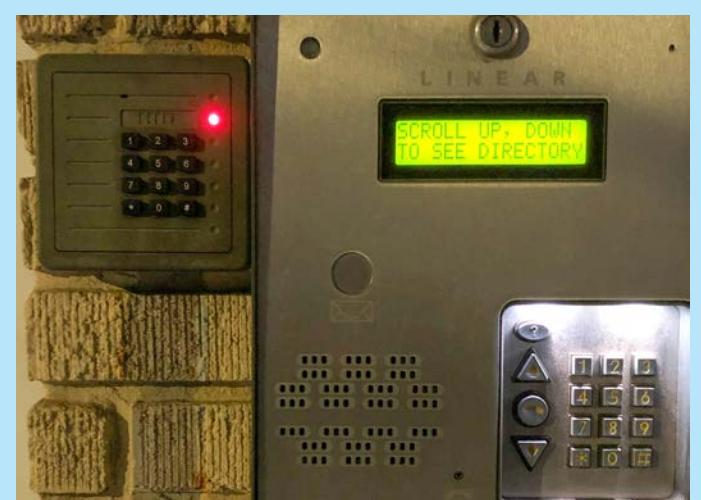
Product page https://bit.ly/2BcN1Eu

Please tally your reactions:
like   love   haha   wow   sad   angry
👍   ❤️   😂   😮   😢   😡

Times Square Billboard Screens

The Times Square District Management Association is quite proud of their vast fleet of large, high-resolution, state-of-the-art screen technology—an immensely expensive service that the organization provides. Many of these video billboards are actually named and run by a market of competing vendors that offer display services.

Learn about the fleet at the
official Times Square site:
https://bit.ly/2FXE5Xx

👍   ❤️   😂   😮   😢   😡

Flexible Information and Notice Display (FIND), 2006

The R160 model trains, introduced in the early 2000's, sports several LED matrix displays that deliver information about upcoming stops.

New York Times article from 2006:
https://nyti.ms/2TlU6Ka

👍   ❤️   😂   😮   😢   😡

MTA Digital Advertising Displays by Outfront Media

Once pasted onto dedicated billboard frames scattered across the vast expanses of the MTA subway system, advertisements are now being displayed on very bright, high-fidelity displays that promise endless advertising terrain for marketers seeking to squeeze into every last inch of the urban dweller's daily consciousness.

Read more on Curbed https://bit.ly/2fSEIXg

👍   ❤️   😂   😮   😢   😡
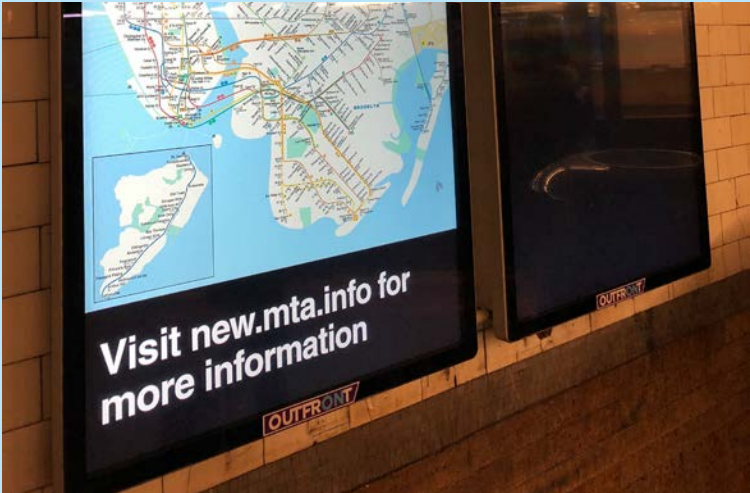
MTA On-the-Go Touchscreen Kiosks

In 2014, the MTA rolled out a massive array of large touchscreen displays that promised to provide trip data, maps, travel information, and advertising space to support the cost of these new public tools. The effort was led by Control Group, which later became part of Intersection, an Alphabet child company responsible for LinkNYC.

Gizmodo's reportage from 2014: https://bit.ly/2WtvQaY

👍   ❤️   😂   😮   😢   😡
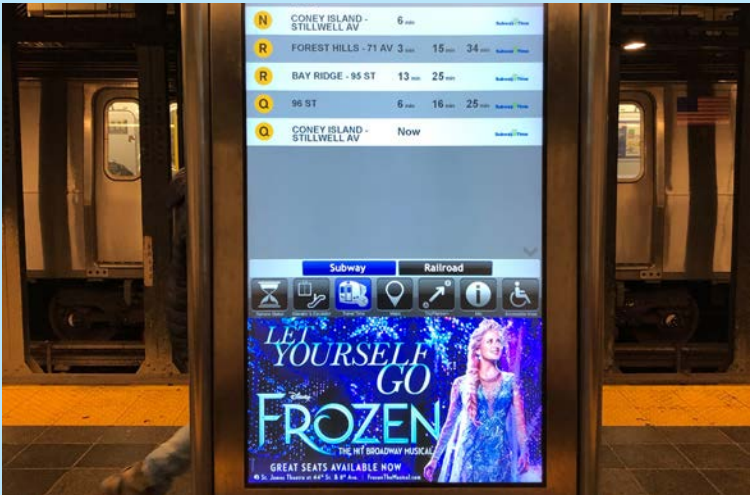
LED dimmer wall switches

These series of LED displays installed in Fayerweather actually reveal interesting changes in the aesthetics of modern lighting; levels of brightness in a room are abstracted into a series of 7 LED lights. An attention to detail can be seen in the way that consecutive changes in brightness are carried out in slow fades rather than abrupt cuts—we can the language of film to imagine these as the difference between a slow dissolve and a hard cut. The pulsing status light, which mimics the ebb and flow of the human breath, symbolizes a proto-sentience or anthropomorphism present in our various everyday electronics.